



Week of November 7, 2011

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Green Power

Green Mountain Power installs 26,000 solar panels in 1,000 days

1,000 days ago, Green Mountain Power (GMP) announced an ambitious goal to install and help its customers install 10,000 solar panels in 1,000 days. GMP announced today that it has exceeded that goal with more than 26,000 panels installed or approved for installation within its service territory.

"Our customers clearly want more solar, and we are determined to help provide it," says Mary Powell, the company's President and CEO. "Local distributed generation from renewable energy has economic and environmental benefits for our customers and for Vermont. In-state development of renewable energy promotes the green economy, creating jobs, and enhancing Vermont's energy independence." [Read more](#). Source: *Vermont Digger*, 11/6/11

APS Provides Green Energy for ASU Homecoming Game

Renewable Energy to Power Sun Devil Stadium for ASU, Colorado Showdown

When Arizona State University hosts Pac-12 newcomer Colorado in football on Saturday, Oct. 29, the grass will not be the only thing green at Sun Devil Stadium -- so will the electricity used at the stadium.

IMG College and ASU Athletics purchased 125,000 kilowatt hours of renewable energy from Arizona Public Service. This is enough green energy to power the stadium during the game and for the remaining Sun Devil home games this season.

The ASU/APS Green Game celebrates the partnership between the university and the utility in helping to make Arizona the national epicenter for solar development. The game also is providing an opportunity to increase the understanding of how solar and renewable energy is helping meet the energy needs of ASU and the entire state. [Read more](#). Source: *MarketWatch*, 11/7/11

EPA's newest Green Power Partner: Amerigroup's Virginia Beach National Support Center

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that Amerigroup Corporation's Virginia Beach National Support Center Inc., is the newest Green Power Partner, on EPA's Fortune 500 list of green power purchasers. Amerigroup's green power purchase of more than 10 million kilowatt hours is equivalent to avoiding the yearly carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions of nearly 1,400 passenger vehicles or from more than 800 average American homes' electricity use. [Read more](#). Source: *Environmental Protection Agency*, 10/25/11

Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.

Renewable Energy Technologies

First Google.org-funded geothermal mapping report confirms vast coast-to-coast clean energy source

New research from SMU's Geothermal Laboratory, funded by a grant from Google.org, documents significant geothermal resources across the United States capable of producing more than three million megawatts of green power – 10 times the installed capacity of coal power plants today.

Sophisticated mapping produced from the research, viewable via [Google Earth](#), demonstrates that vast reserves of this green, renewable source of power generated from the Earth's heat are realistically accessible using current technology. [Read more](#). Source: *Science Codex*, 10/25/11

Jobs, Energy and Environment: Adventurer, Problem-Solver Steven Green Urges U.S. Government to Rethink Geothermal Energy Plan to Create Jobs

With talk about the jobs program and getting Americans back to work, Steven Green announces an energy plan that does just that, and provides a form of cleaner, cheaper electricity.

The plan envelops the thoughts of Theodore Roosevelt in his speech "The New Nationalism" August 31, 1910, 100 years ago: "The object of government is the welfare of the people."

Conservation means development as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us." Would Roosevelt not recognize the need to develop this resource to save the country? [Read more](#). Source: *PR Newswire*, 10/25/11

Offshore Wind Power: Huge Growth Ahead?

A new report from Pike Research confirms what the United States, Europe and even Google are banking on: offshore wind is going to be huge. The cleantech market intelligence firm predicts that revenue from offshore wind power production will reach \$104 billion by 2017, representing a 53 percent annual growth rate over the next six years. If growth is even more aggressive, offshore wind power revenues could reach \$130.5 billion. [Read more](#). Source: *Earth Techling*, 10/23/11

Wacker VP: Renewable energy is the future

There are 6 megawatts of solar panels installed in Tennessee. In Germany, more than half of 20,000 mega-watts is in-stalled on residential rooftops.

The difference is in the incentives offered and how government manages the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. [Read more](#). Source: *Cleveland Daily Banner*, 10/23/11

OSU study shows downside of biomass power generation

Oregon's blue-sky thinking on alternative energy envisions the state's forests as a terrific source of biomass. Woody debris from thinning, brush clearing and removing dead trees could generate electricity, heat manufacturing plants and be turned into biofuels.

Better yet, the thinking goes, such work could restore forest health and provide jobs in rural communities in addition to helping the state meet its renewable energy goals. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute calls it the "woody biomass triple win."

Researchers at Oregon State University rain on that notion. [Read more](#). Source: *The Eugene Register Guard*, 10/24/11

Distributed & Community Wind

Small wind turbines are electric generators that utilize wind energy to produce clean, emissions-free power for individual homes, farms, and small businesses. With this simple and increasingly popular technology, individuals can generate their own power and cut their energy bills while helping to protect the environment. The U.S. leads the world in the production of small wind turbines, which are defined as having rated capacities of 100 kilowatts and less, and the market is expected to continue strong growth through the next decade. [Read more](#). Source: *American Wind Energy Association*, 10/20/11

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

New Report Issued on the Benefits of Geothermal Use in Oregon

Alexandria, Virginia, 3 November 2011: Bob Lawrence & Associates, Inc., in partnership with the Geo-Heat Center of the Oregon Institute of Technology, announces the release of a report entitled "[The Economic, Environmental, and Social Benefits of Geothermal Use in Oregon](#)."

Authored by the Geo-Heat Center, the report finds that Oregon has a long and rich history of geothermal use. There are over 600 direct use applications across the state, not including undeveloped hot springs.

Geothermal-related businesses in Oregon create an estimated 300 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, primarily in the resort and spa industries.

In addition to job-creation, geothermal use in Oregon prevents the emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) and air pollutants in the amount of at least 156,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year—equivalent to 362,800 barrels of oil.

Relative to 2011 natural gas prices, an estimated \$9 million is saved annually by Oregonians using geothermal energy, representing dollars that can stay in the local economy.

Oregon has significant geothermal potential for future uses. Only about 1.4 percent of the state's feasibly accessible geothermal resources are currently being tapped.

The Oregon report is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. *Source: Bob Lawrence & Associates, Inc., 11/3/11*

National lab report: Wind turbine prices drop as designs improve, U.S. supply chain develops

A new report from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) researchers finds that two important factors in the trend of wind turbine prices over the past decade have been the scaling up of turbine size to reduce cost of energy (COE) and the growth of a domestic supply chain as the U.S. dollar has declined against other major currencies.

The report, "[Understanding Trends in Wind Turbine Prices Over the Past Decade](#)," is authored by Mark Bolinger and Ryan Wiser of LBNL. [Read more](#). *Source: Into the Wind - AWEA blog, 11/1/11*

Small Wind News for Fall 2011

Welcome to the Fall issue of the Small Wind Newsletter.

In this issue, you will learn about the growth in the small wind market during 2010. Continued growth will depend on quality products and installers, in addition to government incentives to lower costs. You will learn about installer certification, as well as new and improved incentives in several states and provinces. We include a few examples of recent installations and profile how a leading consumer publication is covering small wind turbines.

[Read more](#). Source: *Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 10/27/11*

Interior Releases Updated Roadmap for Solar Energy Development

Supplement to Draft Solar PEIS offers solid foundation for landscape-level planning in six western states

As part of President Obama's commitment to developing our domestic energy portfolio, including our clean energy resources, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today made public a supplement to the federal plan to facilitate responsible utility-scale solar development on public lands in six western states – Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

The revised plan, the Supplement to the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development (Solar PEIS), reinforces and improves upon Interior's work to establish meaningful solar energy zones with transmission solutions and incentives for solar energy development within those zones. The blueprint's early, comprehensive analysis will ultimately make for faster, better permitting of large-scale solar projects on public lands. [Read more](#).

According to information available from the BLM, the following public meetings have been scheduled for those wanting to submit comments on the Supplement:

- Las Vegas, Nevada – Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011 at 7:00 PM: Ramada Las Vegas, 325 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89169
- Phoenix, Arizona – Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011 at 7:00 PM: Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 West Dunlap Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85021
- El Centro, California – Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011 at 7:00 PM: Fairfield Inn, 503 East Danenberg Drive, El Centro, CA 92243
- Palm Desert, California – Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM: Best Western Hotel, 74695 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA 92260

[Read more](#). Source: *US Bureau of Land Management, 10/27/11*

Energy Information Administration Publishes Annual Energy Review 2010

The Energy Information Administration published its "[Annual Energy Review 2010](#)," a report of historical annual energy statistics. For many series, data begin with the year 1949. Included are data on total energy production, consumption, and trade; overviews of petroleum, natural gas, coal, electricity, nuclear energy, renewable energy, as well as financial and environmental indicators; and data unit conversion tables. *Source: Energy Information Administration, 10/25/11*

3TIER Helps Reduce Risk of \$4.1 Billion Investment in Solar Energy

Project Feasibility and Risk Analysis Helps Ensure Projects Have Solid Financial Foundation

a global leader in renewable energy risk analysis, today announced that it has helped utility-scale solar energy developers secure over \$4.1 billion in public and private project financing and loan guarantees. Once built, the projects will account for 1,200 MW of installed capacity in the United States and India and will include many of the largest solar projects currently in development. Project developers that worked with 3TIER include: Brightsource Energy, Reliance Power, and AES Solar among others. [Read more](#). *Source: Renewable Energy World, 10/25/11*

New report explores potential for China to invest in European renewable energy technologies

Enter the Dragon: How China will impact Europe's renewable energy landscape provides insight into M&A and project financing deal activity between European and Chinese renewable energy companies. It also examines trends in non-transaction oriented expansion initiatives such as technology licensing and localised manufacturing. The findings are based on a survey of 120 senior business executives split equally between Europe and China. [Download the report](#). *Source: Clean Energy Pipeline, 10/25/11*

RETScreen Software: Energy Performance Analysis Module Available

As part of the RETScreen Clean Energy Project Analysis Software, a new multilingual energy Performance Analysis Module is provided to help the user monitor, analyse, and report key energy performance data to facility operators, managers and senior decision-makers. [Read more](#). *Source: Natural Resources Canada, 10/13/11*

Learn more about [education and outreach activities](#).

News from Washington

Department of Energy Releases Inaugural Quadrennial Technology Review Report

Report Provides a Roadmap for Advancing Key Energy Technologies and Outlines a Clear Vision of the Department's Goals for Energy Innovation

The Energy Department today released its inaugural Quadrennial Technology Review report (DOE-QTR) – an assessment of the Department's energy technology research and development portfolios. The DOE-QTR establishes a robust framework for the Department's energy technology activities, including principles it can use to prioritize its technology research and development. Inspired by the Quadrennial Defense Review, the DOE-QTR was recommended by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) as an initial step toward a government-wide Quadrennial Energy Review to help formulate a national energy policy. [Read more](#). *Source: US Department of Energy, 9/27/11*

Department of Energy Releases 2011 Strategic Plan

The Department of Energy today released its 2011 Strategic Plan (pdf - 3.46MB), a comprehensive blueprint to guide the agency's core mission of ensuring America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.

In the opening of the DOE Strategic Plan, Secretary Chu writes: "The Department of Energy plays an important and unique role in the U.S. science and technology community. The Department's missions and programs are designed to bring the best scientific minds and capabilities to bear on important problems. It is an integrator, bringing together diverse scientists and engineers from national laboratories, academia, and the private sector in multidisciplinary teams, striving to find solutions to the most complex and pressing challenges. This Strategic Plan lays out the Department's leadership role in transforming the energy economy through investments in research, development of new technologies, and deployment of innovative approaches." [Read more](#). *Source: US Department of Energy, 5/10/11*

Congress asked to Extend Credits

Geothermal wants its share

The prospect of Congress approving an extension of cash grants for renewable projects seems dim, but there are other tax credits for renewables that are starting to sunset that have segments of the clean energy industry concerned.

Take, for example, the geothermal energy industry and the investment tax credit.

A concern mentioned often at the just-concluded Solar Power International conference was the impact of the 30-percent investment tax credit that is set to expire in 2016. Most

observers expect it will not be renewed. [Read more](#). *Source: Renewable Energy Biz, 10/23/11*

Learn more about [national activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

Oklahoma Helps Build America's Energy Future

Oklahoma Corporation Commission order marks major milestone in Plains and Eastern Clean Line's goal to export Oklahoma's clean energy

Plains and Eastern Clean Line Oklahoma LLC (Plains & Eastern Clean Line), an affiliate of Clean Line Energy Partners LLC (Clean Line) of Houston, Texas, is pleased to announce that the Oklahoma Corporation Commission approved Plains & Eastern Clean Line's request to conduct business as a public utility in Oklahoma. This approval marks a major milestone in Plains & Eastern Clean Line's efforts to connect 7,000 megawatts of clean energy generation from western Oklahoma, southwest Kansas, and the Texas Panhandle to Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Arkansas, and other southeastern markets. [Read more](#). *Source: Clean Line Energy Partners, 10/28/11*

New California Law Expedites Permitting for Wind, Geothermal in Deserts

California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) last week signed into law a bill that extends an expedited permitting process previously limited to large-scale solar projects to wind and geothermal projects planned for installation in California's Mojave and Colorado Deserts. [Read more](#). *Source: Power Magazine, 9/7/11*

Idaho PUC approves solar contract over objections of its staff

With its approval of Boise developer Interconnect Solar's contract with Idaho Power, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission has placed the burden of success or failure in the hands of the entrepreneur where it belongs.

The PUC approved a revised 25-year sales agreement between Idaho Power and the developer of a 20-megawatt photovoltaic solar project near Murphy in Owyhee County. The Commission's staff had tied the project up into the deliberations about avoided costs that nearly killed the project. Then they found a calculation error the two parties missed. [Read more](#). *Source: Idaho Statesman, 10/25/11*

Wind Power Transmission Lines Rise Across Texas

Workers are stringing thousands of miles of wires across Texas to aid the wind-power boom, despite lingering controversy — and an estimated cost of \$6.8 billion. West Texas businesses have found a niche providing for workers.

Enormous transmission towers stand beside a West Texas country road, waiting for electric wires to be strung through them. Nearby, the task of threading wires through the steel towers is already under way, as men in hardhats shift equipment into position.

"We're going to work 12 hours a day through Thanksgiving," said Pat Hogan, a consultant with McCurley Enterprises, a company helping with the construction. The only real break comes around mid-afternoon on Sundays when, he said, "you can get your clothes cleaned or go to the grocery store." [Read more](#). Source: KUHF News, 10/23/11

Georgia PSC member calls for more solar in U.S. state

On October 18th, 2011, Lauren "Bubba" McDonald (R), public service commissioner in the U.S. state of Georgia, stated that he would support subsidies including charging ratepayers up to USD 0.05 more per month to build more solar energy projects in the state.

In a press statement, McDonald noted that Georgia has excellent solar potential but is 35th in the nation for installed solar capacity. The commissioner also identified renewable energy credits (RECs) as a way to build a larger solar industry, and called for investigation into policies to increase the price of RECs.

"Solar prices today give Georgia an outstanding opportunity to supplement our fossil and nuclear power sources while creating good jobs and immediately assist in Georgia's recovery," declared Commissioner McDonald in the press statement. [Read more](#). Source: SolarServer, 10/19/11

Learn more about [energy analysis](#)

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

EPA, DOE Partner to Develop Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Sites

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) are evaluating the feasibility of developing renewable energy production on Superfund, brownfields, and former landfill or mining sites. As part of the RE-Powering America's Land Initiative, EPA is investing approximately \$1 million for projects across the United States aiming to revitalize abandoned sites while protecting people's health, the environment and providing economic benefits to local communities, including job creation.

"The RE-Powering America's Land Initiative is not just about using these sites for energy production but using these sites to re-energize communities," said Mathy Stanislaus, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. "These studies are the first step to transforming these sites from eyesores today to community assets tomorrow." [Read me](#). Source: *All American Patriots*, 11/4/11

Department of Energy to Invest \$60 Million to Develop Innovative Concentrating Solar Power Technologies

As part of the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative, Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced a \$60 million investment over three years for applied scientific research to advance cutting-edge Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) technologies. CSP technologies use mirrors to reflect and concentrate sunlight to produce heat, which can then be used to produce electricity. Funded through DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, this research supports DOE's SunShot Initiative, a collaborative national effort to reduce the cost of solar energy 75% to make it cost competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade. DOE's SunShot investments in solar energy research will encourage rapid, widespread adoption of solar energy systems across the country, help the solar power industry overcome technical barriers and reduce costs, boost U.S. competitiveness in the worldwide market for solar technologies, and provide support for clean energy jobs for years to come. [Read more](#). Source: *US DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*, 10/25/11

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